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THE RAISING OF HOGS

*One of the Best Ways to Fill the
Empty Dinner Pail*



By
GEO. W. CARVER, M. S. AGR., D. SC.
Director, Experiment Station
Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute

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THE RAISING OF HOGS

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO FILL THE EMPTY DINNER PAIL

By Geo. W. Carver, M. S. Agr.; D. Sc.

With sugar cured hams selling for 26 cents per pound, bacon sliced selling for 36 cents per pound, lard selling for 19 cents per pound, and unsmoked white meat selling for 23 cents per pound, it does not require the wisdom of a philosopher to see that the bulk mass of dinner pails must remain only partially filled or entirely empty in so far as the above pork products are concerned.

The all absorbing question is:

- (a) Can the above condition be remedied?
- (b) Yes.
- (c) In what way?
- (d) By learning to raise pigs with little money.
- (e) How can this be done?
- (f) By studying and beginning at once to carry out the suggestions outlined herein.
- (g) Every farmer must realize that the hog is one of the best mortgage lifters on the farm, and can be quickly and easily raised with but little or no cash outlay.

Extensive study leads me to believe that there is not a single spot or section in the entire South that is equal to, much less excel, the natural advantages found here in Macon County, Alabama, for the production of not only choice pork for home consumption but large quantities for market.

(h) Note the Advantages:

First—Nature has been lavish in providing a number of superior foodstuffs, some one or more of which may be had simply for the gathering.

Second—Nearly every kind of temperate and sub-tropical foodstuff can be grown easily, and some of them preserved for feeding the year round.

Third—The climate is practically perfect.

Fourth—An abundance of clean, fresh, wholesome water can be had at all times.

Fifth—Much of the soil is sandy, well drained, and ideal for hog raising.

Sixth—There is nearly always a good market for choice pork and pork products.

Seventh—No farm animals except chickens multiply as fast as hogs.

Eight—Hogs are great scavengers, converting into meat much of the waste from the kitchen, farm, garden, orchard, dairy, etc.

Ninth—The losses from cholera here in Macon County are exceedingly small, and can yet be reduced if the proper precautions are taken by keeping in close touch with your county agent, who will gladly assist you in the latest and best means of protection.

Tenth—Hog raising is the most fitting compliment to the boys' corn clubs and girls' canning clubs, as both of these movements should furnish large quantities of cheap, pork producing foods.

How To Begin

Choose first a good breed. Of the many good types, the Berkshire, Essex, and Poland China seem to be the most popular here in the South; in fact the Berkshire is my choice.

Select two female pigs of good breeding if you are able to pay for them; if not, strong, healthy ones—mongrels, or any sort obtainable. Breed only to a good, well-bred male, never to a scrub. These sows, with proper care, will give you two litters of pigs per year, and at each farrowing time will drop from six to ten fine, healthy little porkers.

Housing

In a climate as mild as this, expensive houses are unnecessary. A small lean-to (shed) house, 6x6 feet or 8x8, just high enough in the back to clear the head, and tall enough in front to form a good water-shed, is quite sufficient. The top may be covered with boards, shingles, straw, grass, or anything that is cheaply and easily obtained, and which will shed the water perfectly.

Feeding

How to secure feed for one, two, or several hogs presents an unsurmountable problem to many, when in truth and in fact, Macon County, as well as many other sections of the South, is unusually blessed with an abundance of just the kinds of foods for the production of the choicest pork and pork products in the world. For the sake of clearness I am dividing the foodstuffs into two divisions as follows:

I—Native Foods

Wild Primrose—A plant bearing a slight resemblance to lettuce when young. It bears yellow flowers and forms an almost round mat on the ground from two to three feet in diameter in rich soil. An analysis of this plant shows it to be highly nutritious, and hogs

eat it greedily and thrive off it. In this locality it is large enough to begin pullings and feedings by the last of February.

Smooth and Thorny Careless Weeds, also Lambs Quarter (Pig-weeds)—Come in abundance in April and May. These weeds are very rich in food material and hogs are very fond of them.

Wild Plums—Are usually abundant from the latter part of May to August. Their value as a hog food is too well known to need discussion here.

Acorns—Of all kinds, usually abundant in September, October, November, and December, are well known and recognized in the feeding for choice pork.

Beech Nuts—In many sections are often plentiful in October, November, and December. Nothing produces finer bacon than such nuts.

Nut Grass—This plant is the wild chufa, and has almost as high a feeding value as the cultivated chufa. If you have a sufficient amount of nut-infested ground, divide it up into plats and let the hogs root the nuts out; when one plat has been thoroughly rooted over turn them in upon another.

Purslane (Pusley)—Appears in May, June, and July, and is among the best of the pigweeds for feeding swine.

II—Foods That Can Be Grown

Sweet Potatoes—Should head the list, as they can be so easily grown and possess almost (when fed properly) as high a fattening value as corn in the production of pork. The Cuban Queen, White Bahama, or "Choak^{er}," and Red Nansemond should be grown for this purpose; these three are selected on account of their large yield, but any variety will do.

Sorghum Millet—Plant a few rows about the middle of March solely for the hogs. Cut a little bunch and give them every day just as soon as it is large enough.

Corn—Its feeding value is too well known to need any discussion here.

Peanuts—In this we have practically a perfect food, when judiciously fed. Two crops per year of the Spanish variety can be grown. Plant the first crop by the 15th of April. They will be fully matured by the middle of July. Dig, plow up the ground, and plant again.

Rape, Collards, Cabbage, Turnips, Beets—And all sorts of garden vegetables hogs will eat with a relish. They are especially fond of watermelons and canteloupes.

Pumpkins—Either cooked or raw, make a superior food for hogs. The same is true of cushaws, squash, etc.

Cow Peas—Hogs are very fond of grazing on green cow peas, and seem to thrive almost if not as well as on clover pasture, Soja beans are also very fine. Few farmers realize that the cow pea is one of the best, all around crops the southern farmer can raise. In its many varieties it is ideal for human consumption, superior as a stock food and one of our very best soil builders.

Bermuda Grass—A good Bermuda Grass pasture is almost synonymous to an abundance of choice, cheap pork if properly grazed by the hogs. Wheat, rye, and oats, Burr and crimson clover make excellent winter pasture if sown early.

Note the following percentage composition of digestible nutrients in 100 pounds of the following foodstuffs:

| Name of Food Stuff | Protein (Muscle Builders) | Carbohydrates (Fat Formers) | Fat |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|
| Cow Peas | 16.8 | 54.9 | 1.1 |
| Skim Milk | 2.9 | 5.3 | 0.3 |
| Sweet Potatoes | 1.4 | 21.9 | 0.6 |
| Peanuts | 25.8 | 13.7 | 35.6 |
| Millet Seed | 7.1 | 48.5 | 2.5 |
| Peanut Cake | 42.8 | 20.4 | 7.2 |
| Whey | 0.6 | 5.0 | 0.2 |
| Soy Beans | 29.1 | 23.3 | 14.6 |
| Acorns | 2.2 | 34.7 | 2.0 |
| Dent Corn | 7.8 | 66.8 | 4.3 |
| Sunflower Seed | 14.8 | 29.7 | 18.2 |

Things To Bear in Mind

1. That the health and success of hog raising depends largely upon keeping the quarters where they stay clean—the houses should never be allowed to become filthy. Clean out every few days, and keep well white washed.

2. Keep the following mixture where they can get it at all times:
To one peck of charcoal broken into small pieces, mix—one pint salt; one pint flowers of sulphur (powdered sulphur); one pint copperas.
This is a fine tonic as well as a cleanser of intestinal impurities.

3. Feed liberally, but change the diet often. Cook the food at times. Never allow hogs or pigs to suffer for clean, fresh water.

4. Remember, it is dangerous to feed swill that has in it lye, soap, washing powders, glass, etc.

5. Skim milk, butter milk, whey, or milk of any kind is excellent for hogs of all ages, (as the table on Page 6 clearly indicates) but especially fine for growing pigs.

I trust every family will try a few pigs, following out some of the suggestions above, and see how easy it is to raise a few hogs with practically no cash outlay.

For the curing of meat, making sausage, scrapel, souse and other choice dishes from pork, send to this Station for Bulletin No. 24.

GEORGE W. CARVER,
Director, Department of Agricultural
Research and Experiment Station
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama,

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